



The Old Ironsides Report

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USO show brings music, 'thank you's' to BIAP community

Spc. John S. Wollaston, 3rd Brigade Combat Team PAO

BAGHDAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Iraq -- Nearly 2,000 soldiers filled the 1st Armored Division's 4th Aviation Brigade hangar at Baghdad International Airport Thursday afternoon for a star-filled USO Show.

Headlining the "The Big Event" were rock/rap artist Kid Rock, country singer Shelley Wright, rap group Nappy Roots, fitness model Leeann Tweeden, model/actress Rebecca Romajin-Stamos, Miami Dolphin's all-pro defensive end Jason Taylor, Los Angeles Lakers forward Mark Madsen, Forrest Gump and Apollo 13 star Gary Sinese and the 1st Armored Division Band.

Their aim was to personally thank soldiers for their sacrifices and service during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

And, they did.

Warming up the crowd for the USO show was the 1st Armored Division band.

Playing a range of music from rock to soul to oldies, the crowd cheered enthusiastically.

Despite the sweltering conditions inside the hangar, soldiers waited for the stars to arrive.

Cheers from the crowd grew louder as each star came through the crowd and made his or her way up to the stage.

The loudest cheer came when Kid Rock made his appearance. Rock performed several of his hits.

"Only God Knows Why" and his latest hit "Picture" with Shelley Wright filling in on the Sheryl Crow half of the duet.

He also debuted a couple of new tunes he penned on the way to Baghdad, including one called "If I were the president."

"It was awesome. I'm from Michigan and Kid Rock is one of the boys," said Pvt. 1st Class Bryce Frederic, Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division.



Kid Rock debuts a few new tunes to about 2,000 soldiers during the USO's "BIG EVENT" show Thursday. Photo by SPC Edwin Bridges, 982nd Signal Co., Combat Camera.

Frederic said he had difficulty seeing the performance due to capacity crowd. But there was no difficulty catching the tunes.

"I know all his songs, so it was easy for me to sing along."

Several of the stars like the Dolphin's Taylor and Romajin-Stamos only made brief appearances onstage before moving among the crowd to sign autographs and passing on their thanks to the soldiers.

"I came here to say thank you to these soldiers for doing the incredible job they do," Sinese said.

"We have 250 million people in our country and only a very tiny amount volunteers to protect us."

NEWS

Iraq Ambulance Attack Kills U.S. Soldier

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - A rocket-propelled grenade slammed into a U.S. military ambulance Thursday, killing one American soldier and wounding two others, the latest in a series of attacks on U.S. personnel or their offices. The ambulance was transporting a wounded American soldier to a medical facility when it came under fire on a highway about 20 miles south of Baghdad.

Martha Stewart's Trial Set for Jan. 12

NEW YORK (AP) - Home decorating queen Martha Stewart will go on trial in January to face charges that she lied to investigators and investors about a questionably timed 2001 stock sale. A federal judge on Thursday set a Jan. 12 trial date for Stewart and her former stockbroker, giving their attorneys months to sift through computer evidence and dozens of boxes of documents the government has amassed.

Air Force Drops Charges Against Pilots

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - The Air Force dropped criminal charges Thursday against two fighter pilots who mistakenly bombed Canadian troops in Afghanistan last year, killing four. The pilots, Maj. Harry Schmidt and William Umbach, had been charged with involuntary manslaughter, aggravated assault and dereliction of duty and faced up to 64 years in prison if convicted in a court-martial.

Powell to Visit Israel, Palestinian Areas

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) - Secretary of State Colin Powell said he plans to travel to Israel and the Palestinian territories on Friday in hope of restoring momentum to the U.S.-led efforts to bring peace to the region. He announced the visit just before flying to Jordan after a brief stop in Bangladesh.

Chaplain's thought for the day

Whoever I am or whatever I am doing, some kind of excellence is within my reach.

----John W. Gardner

It's easy to forget how important we each are -- to our parents, to other family members, to our friends. We are in this world, even in our particular family, because we are important and necessary in the lives of others. It's easy to feel not so important though, especially when we think we're not good enough at anything we try. School or work comes easy for some. Athletics come easy to others. The fact is each of us is very good at some things. And it's okay to not be good at everything.

BUSINESS

Investors Take Profits for Second Day

NEW YORK (AP) - Worried that Wall Street might have gotten ahead of itself, investors adopted a cautious strategy Thursday, cashing in more profits from the market's recent rallies. Stocks incurred sharp losses despite two encouraging reports, one showing a drop in jobless claims and the other forecasting stronger-than-expected prospects for the economy. In late afternoon trading, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 96.97, or 1 percent, at 9,196.83. The broader market also retreated. The Nasdaq composite index fell 16.39, or 1 percent, to 1,660.75. The Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped 11.71, or 1.2 percent, to 998.38.

Harry Potter Author Sues N.Y. Daily News

NEW YORK (AP) - The author of the Harry Potter book series slapped the Daily News with a \$100 million lawsuit after the newspaper published the fifth novel four days before its official release. The News said it bought a copy of "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" from a health food store that had mistakenly put the book out for sale Wednesday despite an embargo until Saturday.

SPORTS

Sindelar Sets Early Pace at Buick HARRISON, New York (Reuters) - Joey Sindelar shot a five-under-par 66 to take the early first-round lead in the Buick Classic at Westchester Country Club Thursday.

The 45-year-old Sindelar, a six-time winner on the PGA Tour, led by two strokes in the clubhouse from South African Deane Pappas.

J.J. Henry, Glen Day, Sweden's Jesper Parnevik, Australia's Steve Elkington, Brad Faxon and Shaun Micheel finished on two-under-par.

Turkey rallies, U.S. loses 2-1 in Confederations Cup opener

SAINT-ETIENNE, France (AP) -- Back on soccer's world stage, the United States showed it still has some growing up to do.

Turkey rallied from a first-half deficit, soundly beating the United States 2-1 Thursday night in the Americans' opener of the Confederations Cup.

TODAY'S WEATHER

High: 41C/106F

Low: 29C/84F

